

Half-an-hour Discussion Arising out of Replies to Question**No. 391 Re : Explosion in firework shops at Bidar.**

†SRI G. CHANDRAKANTH.—Sir, I raise a half-an-hour discussion on starred question No. 139 (391) of VII List regarding explosion in firework shops at Bidar.

The question did not come up that day and, therefore, I could not put any supplementaries and elicit any information on it. Also the replies given to the question seem to be far from satisfactory. Therefore I have given this notice which is before the house now.

Some time last year at Bidar an explosion took place in a firework shop. The explosion was of a very serious nature. As a result of the explosion the shop was blown out. As per the information furnished here about 41 persons were injured. Fortunately it was Sunday and the explosion took place in the morning hours and so the traffic was not heavy. Because of that only 41 persons were injured. Otherwise I do not know what would have been the fate of the people moving in that area. Immediately after the explosion that morning I went there and found that it was really very serious. Immediately those who were involved in the explosion were all hospitalised including the owner of the shop. They were no doubt given medical facilities.

Now I would like to submit that I do not agree with the reply given to question (b), "what kind of explosion it was, whether of country made or hand grenade or explosive or of country made dynamite." The reply is "the explosion is reported to be of one small atom bomb cracker." If it is due to small atom bomb cracker, how could 41 persons have been injured? This reply seems to be far from the truth. As per the information received by me this was not due to an atom bomb cracker, but it was actually a hand grenade explosion. To substantiate this, I would like to say that when I went to the hospital along with the Civil Surgeon, Bidar, the man in whose shop this explosion had occurred, was very seriously injured and nails were removed from his body. Whenever such incidents occur, when nails are recovered from the body of the person injured, these are symptoms of hand grenade explosion and not of atom bomb cracker explosion. Therefore this gives room to serious doubt. Even after a lapse of long time no enquiry seems to have been made and the culprits have not been booked. Since these shops are situated in a busy locality, the municipality also has not taken care to remove these shops from the busy locality. These shops must be removed from the busy locality and they should be shifted outside the town. This is not the first time that such explosion had occurred. Even prior to this incident about 10 to 15 years ago, when such explosion had occurred about 7 people were burnt and instant death took place. Therefore, I would request the Government to kindly look into the matter, hold an enquiry and book the culprits, and I would request the Hon'ble Minister concerned to make a statement on this.

5-30 P.M.

† SRI MANIK RAO PATIL (Deputy Minister for Home).—Sir, the matter brought before this House by the Hon'ble Member Sri G. Chandrakanth, pertains to the unfortunate incident which took place in Bidar town on 5-5-1968. On that day at about 8.15 A.M. there was a serious explosion in the shops of (1) Ghudu Sab S/o. Fathe Mohamed, (2) Zahiruddin S/o. Kamruddin and (3) Maqsud, which are situated in Osman Galli in Bidar Town. In all 41 persons were injured, out of whom 36 patient attended Government dispensary on 5th May 1968, 16 patient were admitted in the hospital and the rest were treated as out-patients. One patient Jahangir Sab S/o. Zahiruddin of Bidar who sustained severe injury on the left limb above the knee underwent amputation. Another patient Ghudu Sab S/o. Fathe Mohamed of Bidar lost the sight of the left eye. All the admitted patients recovered. The Deputy Commissioner, Bidar states that information pertaining to payment of compensation will be furnished soon after the decision from the Court. The injured persons, however, do not come under the Workmens' Compensation Act.

The explosion is reported to be of one small atom bomb cracker. All the shops were licensed. Small atom bomb cracker cannot be called a country-made hand grenade or a country-made dynamite. The small atom bomb cracker was kept in the shop of one Ghudu Sab S/o. Fathe Mohamed. The damage to the property worth Rs. 800 is reported to have been caused. Police have registered an offence under sections 286 and 338 of I. P. C. in Crime No. 58/68. The police investigation is over and charge-sheet is made under the scrutiny of the the Assistant Police Prosecuting Officer, Bidar, and is being filed in the appropriate Court of Law. According to Rules 85 of the Explosive Rules' 1940, licenses are granted by concerned authorities for the purpose on payment of the fee specified therein. This is all the incident. The allegation of my friend that they were of a rather dynamite type of material, is far from truth. In fact, the material contained only an atom bomb cracker, which is a play material for children.

SRI D. B. KALMANKAR.—Will the Hon. Deputy Minister say whether there was only one atom bomb cracker or whether the whole shop was full of atom bomb crackers, because the incident is serious ?

SRI MANIK RAO PATIL.—Sir, I have already explained that it is a type of atom bomb cracker, which is occasionally used for ceremonial purpose or something else.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಶಿವಪ್ಪ.—ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿರುವಂತೆ ಇದನ್ನು ಅಷ್ಟು ಹಗುರವಾಗಿ ಭಾವಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಾರಣ ಏನೆಂದರೆ ಅವರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪ್ರಕಾರವೇ ಅಲ್ಲಿ 41 ಜನರಿಗೆ ಗಾಯಗಳಾಗಿ ಕೆಲವರಿಗೆ ಕೈಕಾಲುಗಳು ಮುರಿದು ಅವರನ್ನು ಅಸ್ವಸ್ಥರನ್ನಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿರುವಾಗ ಅಂಥ ಅಪಾಯಕರವಾದ ವಸ್ತುವನ್ನು ಮಕ್ಕಳ

ಅಖ್ಯಾಯಿಕೆ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆಯೆಂದು ಅಷ್ಟು ಉಚಿತವಾದದ್ದೇ! ಅಂಥ ಅಪಾಯಕರವಾದ ಸಿದ್ಧಿಮದ್ದನ್ನು ತಯಾರಿಸದಂತೆ ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತೇನೆ.

Sri MANIK RAO PATIL.—After all an explosive material, when it is carelessly handled, is bound to cause some injuries. Unfortunately, what happened is, a small cigarette end was carelessly thrown in the shop and this damage was caused. Otherwise, there was no reason for such an incident.

Mr. SPEAKER.—The point of the hon'ble Leader of the Opposition is this : if a cracker atom bomb is capable of great injury, will the Government prevent manufacture of such crackers, because many injuries have been caused to several persons?

Sri MANIK RAO PATIL.—Sir, I have already told that a large number of crackers had been dumped in one corner of the shop, and when a spark of cigarette fell, it burst into a bit incident. As suggested, already the district authorities are considering, in consultation with the Municipal President, to shift some of the shops to a far away place. Government have cancelled about six licenses of persons who have not taken proper care.

Sri D. B. KALMANKAR.—I visited the spot immediately after the incident, and I am told that there is a gang of people, who are indulging in manufacture of hand grenade and the explosion occurred there was due to hand grenade, and some hand grenade were also recovered. Therefore, I would earnestly request the Government to look into the matter and hold an enquiry.

Sri MANIK RAO PATIL.—Sir, it is far from truth. It is purely an accident which happened due to the carelessness of some person. Therefore, no, enquiry is necessary.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ನಾಗಪ್ಪ.—ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿರುವಂತೆ ಅಲ್ಲ ಒಂದೇ ಕಡೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹತ್ತಾರು ಸಣ್ಣ ಸಣ್ಣ ಅಟಂಬಾಂಬುಗಳು ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದವುಗಳು ಏಕಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಅವು ಅಕ್ಕಮ ರೇಖಾಗೆ ಸಿಡಿಯುವುದು ಬೇಡ ಅವು 10-20 ಸಿಡಿದಿದ್ದರೂ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಇವರು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿರುವಂತೆ ಅಲ್ಲದ್ದು ಮಳೆಗಳು ಹಾರಿ ಎದೆಗೆ ಚುಚ್ಚಿ ಅವರನ್ನು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಸೇರಿಸತಕ್ಕ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಬೀಳುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅಟಂಬಾಂಬುಗಳ ಹ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಗ್ರೇನ್ಯಾಡ್‌ಗೂ ಏನು ವ್ಯತ್ಯಾಸವಿದೆ ಎನ್ನುವುದು ಗೊತ್ತಿದ್ದರಾಗೆ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಲ್ಲ ಆದ ಸ್ಫೋಟನೆಯಿಂದ 40 ಜನರಿಗೆ ಜಖಂ ಅಗ ಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ ವಿಚಾರ ಬಹಳ ಗಂಭೀರವಾದದ್ದು. ಆ ಮನೆಯ ರೂಫ್ ಕೂಡ ಹಾರಿದೆಯೆಂದು ಹೇಳಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ಗ್ರೇನ್ಯಾಡ್ ಎಷ್ಟೇ ದೊಡ್ಡದಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಅಷ್ಟು ಅಪಾಯವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದರಿಂದ ಇದನ್ನು ವಿಚಾರಮಾಡಬೇಕು.

Sri MANIK RAO PATIL.—Sir, as already pointed out, immediately after the incident, the police reached the scene of occurrence and they have examined the entire thing. Subsequently, the Chief Inspector of Explosives of the area visited the spot and he has given his opinion. After all, it is a shop, and when large number of crackers were dumped in one place, they jointly exploded and such a big loss has occurred.

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—Sir, the Hon. Deputy Minister for Home said that the matter is under investigation and charge-sheets are likely to be framed. Such being the situation, it would not be correct for the Government to commit itself to any opinion in regard to the reasons for the incident, because it will embarrass the investigating officers and it may also amount to taking unfair means of investigation. Therefore, I think, it may not be fair, nor is it in the interest of justice for the Government to go on commit itself to further details as to why exactly the incident happened. I think, it is better that the matter would not be further probed into.

Sri MANIK RAO PATIL.—I have said that the charge-sheet is under the scrutiny with the Assistant Public Prosecutor. They have got clear cut information about the handling of that material. I have said nothing beyond that.

Sri D. B. KALMANKAR—The incident has taken place in the month of May 1968. From that time it is still with the Assistant Public Prosecutor. No charge sheet is filed. There is something fishy about it. The officers are guilty. So, I would request the Hon. Deputy Minister to hand over the case for investigation to C.I.D. and see the real facts are brought to light. This case is being handled very lightly. It appears there is something extremely wrong. I submit that Government may re-consider it and see that investigation is done through C.I.D.

Sri MANIK RAO PATIL.—We expect that every Police Officer will charge sheet the persons concerned within the reasonable time. They are doing it. No Police Officer will keep quiet for a long time.

Mr. SPEAKER.—The Hon. member suggests that the investigation may be got done through C.I.D. What has the hon. Minister to say for that?

Sri MANIK RAO PATIL.—That question does not arise.

Sri G. CHANDRAKANTH.—Have you cancelled the licence?

Sri MANIK RAO PATIL.—For this purpose we issue two types of licences—one is in the 'I' Form and another is in 'K' Form. The 'I' form is meant for manufacture of Crackers and the 'K' Form is meant for possession and sale of the material. So far as the 'I' form is concerned, we have already cancelled 2 licences out of 6. So far as the location is concerned, they are already quite away from the heart of the City. Therefore, the shifting of these shops does not arise at all. However, in consultation with the President of the Municipality, these shops will be shifted to places so that the risk should be minimised in future, as per rules.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Hon. Deputy Minister Sri Thammanna, wants to make a statement.